



Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation

Nelson Merced
Director, National Initiatives and Applied Research
NeighborWorks America

Nelson Merced was named director of NeighborWorks America Corporation's national initiatives and applied research in May 2004. Merced oversees the NeighborWorks® Campaign for Home Ownership, NeighborWorks® Multifamily Initiative, NeighborWorks® Rural Initiative, and NeighborWorks® Resident Leadership Initiative, in addition to the Corporation's Innovations and Applied Research unit.

For the previous five years, Merced was director of the NeighborWorks America's New England District, where he supervised a six-state region – Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont – with more than 30 local NeighborWorks® organizations.

In an extensive career in community-based development, Merced is a former executive director of Alianza Hispana of Boston, which provides social and educational services to the city's Latino population. He played a leadership role in creating Nuestra Comunidad (one of the strongest NeighborWorks® affiliates in Boston), and was a founding member and first president of the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative, a unique and nationally recognized community development organization.

He also served as deputy director for policy and planning for the city of Boston, as a commissioner of the U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform (appointed by the U.S. Senate), and as the first Hispanic to hold statewide office in Massachusetts, when he was elected a state representative in 1987. While in public office, he served the most racially and ethnically diverse district in the state, wrote legislation creating an Urban Initiative Fund, and was a key legislative leader for the first bill that sought to establish community reinvestment mandates for the insurance industry.

Over the past 15 years, Merced has lectured at the University of Massachusetts in community planning, personnel management, funding strategies, and the legislative process.



NeighborWorks America (formerly Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation) of Washington, D.C., is a public nonprofit organization established by Congress in 1978 to revitalize urban, suburban, and rural neighborhoods nationwide. It carries out its mission by mobilizing public, private and community resources at the neighborhood level and expanding affordable housing opportunities for lower-income households through the NeighborWorks® network. The network consists of 235 nonprofit community development organizations serving more than 2,700 communities throughout America.

In the past five years, NeighborWorks® organizations have generated more than \$7.2 billion in reinvestment and helped nearly 500,000 families of modest means purchase or improve their homes or secure safe, decent rental housing or mutual housing. Further information on NeighborWorks America and the NeighborWorks® network is available at www.nw.org.